



# CRITTER PRESENTATION



BY

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What you don't know **can** hurt you. When it comes to bites and stings - prevention is the best medicine.



You maybe surprised to discover that the Sonoran Desert of Arizona while very beautiful is alive with critters who are feared because they have a venomous bite or sting.

**Remember to do the following:**

- Keep all poisonous household products and medications up, out of sight, and locked.
- Put them back immediately after use.
- Watch carefully for scorpions and black widow spiders.
- Keep all purses out of your child's reach.
- Keep poisonous materials in original containers.
- Use child-resistant tops on household products and medications.
- Poison proof ahead of your child's growth. Remember, rapid growth and development bring new poison proofing challenges.



**Do you know.....**  
Which creatures bite and sting?



**What can you do to prevent a bite or sting?**

- Around the house
- When enjoying the outdoors
- When you are camping



**Killer Bees are slightly smaller than the European honey bee, but only an expert can tell them apart**



## Fact or Myth Test your knowledge

1. Baby Rattlesnakes are more dangerous than adult snakes
2. Tourniquets will help keep the venom from spreading
3. Drinking milk is a good treatment for a scorpion sting
4. Daddy Longs Legs are the most poisonous spider
5. The smaller the scorpion, the more poisonous/deadly it is

## Identification

- large, black, shiny body
- measures approximately 3/8 inch long
- one inch legs
- An hour-glass shape
- bright red or orange-red color can be found on her abdomen

## Bite Symptoms

The initial bite may feel like a pin prick, which may go unnoticed.

First, victims experience little or no visible signs of the bite such as swelling

A red circular mark may appear about six hours after the bite.

Initial symptoms may be progressive aching sensations

There may be muscle pain at the bite site spreading to the lower back, thighs and limbs.

Symptoms last as long as 36 hours and lingering effects may last for several weeks.

## **Symptoms of a bite**

- Immediate pain or a burning sensation occurs at the site of the bite; fang marks are usually visible
- Victims may experience a metallic or rubbery taste in the mouth
- Significant swelling usually occurs within minutes, and symptoms may progress to weakness, sweating

### **And or/**

- Chills, nausea and vomiting

A small percentage of rattlesnake bites are "dry," meaning that the snake has not injected venom. But do not count on being one of the lucky ones: seek help immediately. Only a doctor can determine if you have a "dry" bite. Snakes' venom can cause severe tissue damage, blood thinning and other effects.

## Brown Recluse Spider



Brown Recluse Spider, common name for a small brownish spider found mainly in the central and southern United States. Also known as the violin spider.

### Identification

it is characterized by a distinct violin-shaped patch on its cephalothorax (head and mid-region). Except for the black widow spider and certain related species, **the brown recluse spider is the only United States spider whose bite can be dangerous to humans.**

The brown recluse spider is about 1 cm (about 0.4 in) long and has six eyes. It spins a sheet web that may be found in secluded areas among rocks or in houses. The female constructs an irregular web outdoors and indoors in undisturbed dry locations such as basements, garages, closets, and farm outbuildings. The web is not usually used to trap insect prey. Instead, the brown recluse spider is a hunter, emerging from its hiding place at night in search of small insects for food. Favorite hiding places are in seldom-used clothing hanging in dark closets, in boxes of magazines, papers and other stored items, on the underside of furniture, in cracks and spaces around baseboards, around window and door facings, and in dark cellars and garages. The spider may live more than ten years.

### Signs & Bite Symptoms



## **Identification**

- ▶ A large, heavy-bodied lizard
- ▶ displays black markings on a background that can be creamy, pink, yellow or orange
- ▶ measure up to 24 inches in length
- ▶ weigh up to two pounds

## **Signs & Symptoms of a Bite**

A bite produces intense pain within 30 seconds, followed by swelling, weakness, dizziness, nausea and chills.

## ***Scorpions “Bark Scorpions”***

There are as many as 56 species of scorpions in Arizona but it is only one scorpion, the bark scorpion, that can cause medical problems.

### **Identification**

The bark scorpion measures from one to one and a half inches in length, making it one of the smaller species of scorpions. Its color may vary from light tan to a darker golden brown. It also is the only scorpion that curls its tail to the side while at rest.



### **Hard to Spot**

### **Where it is found**

A nighttime feeder, it's most commonly found near irrigated areas and pools; in palm trees; and on wooden fences and the walls of homes. The bark scorpion is the only scorpion in Maricopa County that can climb. It is able to climb walls and walk across ceilings and therefore can show up in bathtubs and beds, having fallen from the ceiling.

It also can cling to the underside of many objects, making it important to be cautious when picking up an object where a scorpion could be hiding such as a wet towel from the pool area, furniture like a table or firewood.



## Unknown Bites & Stings

### Unlikely Bites & Stings

- Coral Snake
- Arizona Brown Spider
- Caterpillars
- Centipedes
- Tarantulas

Treatment...

Acknowledgements:

Banner Poison Control Center [www.bannerhealth.com](http://www.bannerhealth.com)